

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00279 011557Z

73

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 OPR-02 DRC-01 /120 W

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R 011130Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4225

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL UJR BOMBAY 0279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG : PINS PINT IN

SUBJ: LAW AND ORDER BOMBAY

REF PARA 3, NEW DELHI 1593

DEPT FOR NEA PLEASE PASS AMB MOYNIHAN

1. BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ON JAN 30 CENSURED POLICE WHEN IT ADJOURNED AFTER UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTING RESOLUTION (INCLUDING SHIV SENA MEMBERS) CHARGING POLICE WITH PARTIALITY IN DEALING WITH SITUATIONS IN CITY AND CREATING APPREHENSION IN MINDS OF CITIZENS THAT THERE WAS A VIRTUAL BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER IN CITY.

2. RESOLUTION HAS REFERENCE TO POLICE HANDLING OF VIOLENT CLASHES OVER PAST WEEKS BETWEEN HARIJANS (ALSO REFERRED TO IN PRESS AS SCHEDULED CASTES , NEO-BUDDHISTS), LED BY THE MILITANT HARIJAN YOUTH GROUP, DALIT PANTHERS, AND CASTE HINDUS LIVING IN LABOR COLONIES IN WORLI AND NAIGAUM AREAS, MOST RECENT OF WHICH TOOK PLACE EARLIER THIS WEEK. SITUATION PRESENTLY QUIET BUT TENSION STILL PREVAILS. POLICE HAVE BEEN

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PAGE 02 BOMBAY 00279 011557Z

CHARGED WGWH SIDING WITH CASTE HINDUS AGAINST HARIJANS. CHIEF

MIN NAIK ANNOUNCED ON 31ST THAT GOVT MAHARASHTRA WOULD APPOINT A JUDGE TO INQUIRE INTO RIOTS BETWEEN DALIT PANTHERS AND "A SECTION OF THE MARATHAS AT WORLI AND NAIGAUM."

3. MUNICIPAL CORPORATION RESOLUTION HAS EQUAL APPLICATION TO FAILURE POLICE CURB SHIV SENA VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE ON JAN 25. SHIV SENA TOOK OUT MARCH ON 25TH TO BANK OF INDIA DEMANDING 80 PERCENT VACANCIES SHOULD BE RESERVED MAHARASHTRIANS. A TER LEAVING BANK, SAINIKS WENT ON RAMPAGE IN FORT AREA STONING SHOPS, HAWKERS AND PARKED CARS;) TWO HAWKERS STABBED AND ONE DIED. POLICE ALLEGEDLY STOOD BY AND TOOK NO ACTION INTERVENE. ON JAN 28, HAWKERS TOOK OUT PROTEST AND WERE ALLEGEDLY MANHANDLED BY POLICE. THIS HAS LED TO WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CITICISM POLICE PARTIALITY. THIS EMBARRASSING TO CONGRESS LEADERS IN VIEW CONGRESS-SHIV SENA LINKS LOCALLY. IN ITS EFFORTS TRY DISASSOCIATE ITSELF CURRENTLY FROM SHIV SENA BPCC HAS JUST ADOPTED RESOLUTION TO EFFECT THAT IT HAD NO ALLIANCE OF ANY KIND WITH SHIV SENA IN RECENT PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION. (COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY LOCALLY.)

4. IN COMMENTING ON POLICE PARTIALITY IN EDITORIAL TODAY, TIMES OF INDIA RAKES POLICE OVER COALS BUT CONCLUDES WITH KIND WORD FOR POLICE TO EFFECT POLITICIANS HAVING MADE A MESS OF ARRANGEMENTS TO DISTRIBUTE FOODGRAINS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AT REASONABLE PRICES, HAVE LEFT IT TO POLICE TO FACE RESULTING UNREST. "POLITICIANS IN POWER MUST REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT CONTINUE TO MAKE THE POLICE PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES WITHOUT DOING GRAVE DAMAGE TO THE DISCIPLINE OF THE FORCE."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLICE FORCES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BOMBAY00279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BOMBAY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740263/aaaachbj.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARA 3, NEW DELHI 1593
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAW AND ORDER BOMBAY
TAGS: PINS, IN
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005